

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1822 without my signature because its objectives can be accomplished administratively.

It is important to encourage organ donations and improve California's ability to serve thousands of persons waiting for the gift of life, an organ transplant in our state. To that end, last year I signed SB 689 (Speier) to significantly improve California organ and tissue donor registry, more effectively identify donors and establish a new funding source for the registry. Under the law, the Department of Motor Vehicles is required to collect organ and tissue donor designation information on applications for drivers' licenses and identification cards, to electronically transmit donor designation information to California's Registry, and to identify donors on their driver's license or identification card. The success to date of getting new donors signed up on the registry has exceeded expectations.

I support efforts to better educate Californians of the importance of becoming an organ and tissue donor, and recognize the importance of identifying strategies to overcome cultural, linguistic, religious, social, and economic barriers to organ donation. Accordingly, I am directing the Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Donate Life California, to convene a working group to identify strategies to increase donor participation, especially among communities currently underrepresented in the Registry.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger